

The Quarterly Circular

December Quarter 1993 - Whole Series No. 167

Volume XV, No. 4 - Pages 80 - 109

EGYPT STUDY



CIRCLE

CONTENTS

Officers, Forthcoming Meetings 80, Editors Notes, In this Issue 81, Secretary's Report, Membership News, Study Circle Meetings 82, Library Notes 84, 1992 Study Circle Accounts 85.

An Appreciation of the Work of John Grimmer 86

ARTICLES

The Surcharged Provisionals of 1878/9		
P.A.S. Smith		87
The Postal Markings of Egypt after 1879		
L. Alund		96
Varieties of Modern Issues		
C.E.H. Defriez		104
Letters		
Newsletter from New Zealand	P.F. Goodwin	109
Forgeries: 1886 Postage Dues imperforate	P.A.S. Smith	109

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Professor Peter A.S. Smith FRPSL, USA

CHAIRMAN: Mr. John Sears
496 Uxbridge Road, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 4SL,
UK

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. J.S. Horesh, UK

SECRETARY/
TREASURER: Mr. P.R. Bertram
11 Bishop's Way, Buckden, Huntingdon, PE18 9TZ,
UK

EDITOR: Dr. Michael G.C. Dahl
3 Adeline Gardens, Gosforth,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 4JQ, UK
Tel: 901 285 3909 Fax: 091 222 7094

LIBRARIAN: Mr. D. John Davis
Church View Cottage, Church Road, Upton,
Snodsbury, Worcestershire, WR7 4NH, UK

USA AGENT: Mr. Charles F. Hass,
PO Box 27, Folcroft, Pennsylvania 19032,
USA

EGYPT AGENT: Professor N. El-Hadidi,
Cairo University, Giza, Egypt

KEEPER OF THE
RECORD: Mr. D.H. Clarke, UK

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

January 8th Interpostal Seals (an update). A. Schmidt
Canal Paquebots. P. Grech and J. Chellingsworth

March 5th 10 sheets per Member (Spring Stampex Meeting).

May 14th Cancellations of Minor Towns and Villages up to
1939. J. Sears

July 9th De la Rue Watermarks. J.A. Revell

September 19th 1972 Officials (an introduction) and "New
Issues" C.E.H. Defriez

November 12th British Consular Post Offices in Alexandria and
Cairo. D.J. Davis and P.R. Bertram

Meetings are normally held at the Victory Club, Seymour Street,
Marble Arch, London. Members usually congregate in the Bar from
1.00 p.m. onwards and meetings start at 2.30 p.m.

All contents (c) Copyright 1993 Egypt Study Circle, London and the
contributors

EDITORS NOTES

Did you remember to renumber your QC of March 1993 as Whole Series No. 164? If you didn't, please do so now.

I am delighted that most members should receive this December issue of the QC during the month of January. This will represent a significant improvement in the delay in getting out recent QCs. I have very much wanted to resist the easy option of putting two numbers together in one issue. Thus far it has been possible to avoid this due to a combination of members' efforts in submitting material and the Christmas and New Year holiday which has afforded me the time rapidly to assemble this issue. I very much hope that through the efforts of all of us it will be possible to sustain this momentum in 1994.

There must be a number of members who have been tempted to report some apparently new find or ask about some aspect of the subject which has puzzled them, but have felt diffident to put pen to paper. If this description applies to yourself then I do hope you will put aside your reticence and "have a go". If I had one editorial wish for the New Year it would be to see the emergence of new contributors writing in the QC.

In the June editors notes I stated that one of my hopes was to see an improvement in the quality of illustrations in the QC. Clearly there is a way to go, but members will perhaps perceive some improvements already. Another of my hopes is to see information more extensively referenced and members will note that two of the main articles in this issue contain a number of source references (in the third references are not appropriate).

The quoting of source information greatly enhances the quality of any article. References are invaluable to anyone who wishes to continue and expand a subject. I am aware that members may not necessarily have extensive personal or society philatelic libraries in which to search. In addition much of the data which has been accumulated by the Study Circle over many years remains unpublished and inaccessible even to Circle members themselves. These are problems to which I intend to return at greater length in the future. I do however, have at my disposal a complete run of QCs and all issues of L'Orient Philatelique up to April 1968, No. 119. I will do my best to assist authors with reference sources as far as I am able.

IN THIS ISSUE.....

Many members will already know that our President, Peter Smith, is currently embarked upon the writing of a definitive book on Egyptian philately. Some individual chapters are beginning to be published in philatelic journals of international repute. I am delighted that he has chosen the QC as a vehicle for initial publication of a section on the 1879 surcharged provisionals. I very much hope that the QC will be asked to carry further episodes of this magnum opus.

Lars Alund has initiated the publication of a major study of postmarks after the classical period - something which he tells me he has been threatening to do for some time! His first contribution in this issue deals with "Arrival" marks up

to the 1930s. This promises to be a study to which many will be able to contribute whatever their experience or depth of knowledge.

Recent issues receive attention in an article by Cyril Defriez. He documents a number of varieties and errors and demonstrates that there is plenty of interest to the student in the modern period. This article should whet the appetite of members for his Study Circle presentation later this year.

Finally - an apology. The late appearance of the 1992 accounts in this issue is the fault neither of the Treasurer nor of the Auditor nor of the Chairman, but solely of the Editor who forgot to put them in earlier issues!

Michael Dahl, Editor

SECRETARY'S REPORT

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscription for 1994 is £12.50 and fell due on January 1st. Members living in the USA and Canada should remit to Mr. Charles Hass and those in Egypt to Professor N. El-Hadidi. Will other members living outside the United Kingdom please send cheques payable to the Egypt Study Circle drawn in sterling on an English bank. Please make payments to the Treasurer or to appropriate overseas Agents at the earliest opportunity.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

Congratulations are due to several members who have gained honours at International Exhibitions.

Poland, May 1993

Samir Fikry (ESC 305)	The Sphinx 1874-1900, Large Gold
Katcho Hagopian (ESC 304)	Postal Stationery, Gold
" "	1866-1874, Large Vermeil
Farid Mehjar (ESC 431)	1914-1922, Large Vermeil
Leon Balian (ESC 251)	1872-1874, Vermeil

Armenia, May 1993

Katcho Hagopian (ESC 304)	1700-1879, Large Gold and Special Prize.
" "	Postal Stationery, Gold.
Leon Balian (ESC 251)	Gold
Farid Mehjar (ESC 431)	1914-1922, Large Vermeil
Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)	Maritime Mail, Vermeil
" "	Postal Stationery, Vermeil

Thailand, October 1993

Farid Mehjar (ESC 431)	1914-1922, Gold & Felicitation
Sherif Samra (ESC 311)	1872-1874, Large Vermeil
Anatole Ott (ESC 261)	Hotel Cancellations, Large Vermeil
Peter Smith (ESC 74)	Postage Due in Africa, Vermeil & Felicitation.

Samir Fikry's Nile Collection was exhibited by invitation in the Court of Honour.

NEW MEMBER

ESC 437 MR. ERIC PARKES
 "Westleigh", 30 Planks Lane, Wombourne,
 South Staffs, WV5 9HG.
 Interests - Egypt generally, Forces Mail, early
 Sudan - currently Chairman of the Wombourne and
 District Philatelic Society.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

ESC 282 JOHN G. PATSALIDES
 26 Forest Park Crescent, Thornhill,
 Ontario L3T 2M7, Canada.

ESC 413 MR. JOHN E. RUDZIK
 202-3215 Cowichan Lake Road, Duncan,
 British Columbia, V9L 1JF, Canada.

Meeting on 28th November 1993

Present:	P. Andrews	W.C. Andrews	P.R. Bertram
	S.W. Bunce	J.M. Chellingsworth	D.J. Davis
	C.E.H. Defriez	P.F. Goodwin	P.L. Grech
	S. Horesh	G.A. Jeyes	A. Schmidt
	J. Sears		

(13 members)

There were apologies from:

T. Chisholm	M.G.C. Dahl	E. Hall
C.F. Hass	S. McIntosh	J.M. Murphy
J.A. Revell	B. Watterson	N. Watterson
P.E. Whetter		

The Chairman opened the meeting by giving a warm welcome to Peter Goodwin who was visiting from New Zealand.

Steven Bunce has agreed to audit the ESC accounts. He was thanked by those present for taking on this task.

The Chairman pointed out that 1995 would be the 60th anniversary of the Study Circle. Members were asked to consider ways in which this event could be celebrated. This will be discussed over the coming year.

The programme for the next year was then discussed at length. Details should have reached members with the last issue of the QC.

The topic of the meeting was Port Said which was introduced by Pierre Grech. He dedicated his presentation to Gabriel Boulad, one of our founder members who did so much for the ESC and for the study of the stamps of the Suez Canal Company. Pierre started with the French Post Offices, The Suez Canal Company and the history of the Canal. All issues of the French stamps both mint and on cover used at Port Said were shown together with the Corps d' Armee cancellations. John Chellingsworth then followed with other relevant material including cancellations of Port Said and postcards of the

area. Unfortunately the lengthy business discussions which had preceded the talks meant that John's presentation was somewhat curtailed. As a result he will continue his talk at the next meeting in January 1994. The Chairman thanked both speakers and wished everyone a Happy Christmas. An excellent programme is anticipated for 1994.

Robin Bertram, Secretary/Treasurer

LIBRARY NOTES

INDEX SUPPLEMENTS

May I put in a plea to any member who can supply, either in original or photocopy, the following supplements to the QC.

- a) Index supplement to Vol. V
- b) Index supplement to Vol. VI
- c) Pages I to V from index supplement to Vol. XIII.

These are required for the Library to complete the 'run' of QCs and, more particularly, to enable me to select specific QCs where members wish to purchase back-numbers concerning a subject dear to them.

PURCHASE OF BACK-NUMBERS OF THE QC.

As the Library now has a complete run of QCs from No. 1 dated February 1938 to date, it is possible to purchase back-numbers either as originals where stocks permit or otherwise as photocopies. Prices vary dependent upon quantities required but, as a rough guide, £3.00 per copy to include postage and packing may be assumed. Proceeds are used either to purchase Library books or towards the purchase of the Circle photocopier (now paid for) with the balance to Circle funds. For further information on members requirements please contact John Davis direct.

L'ORIENT PHILATELIQUE AND EGYPTIAN TOPICS

The Librarian is embarking on a quest to obtain a complete run of these journals and requests assistance from members who could supply any Egyptian Topics or any of the following numbers of L'Orient Philatelique:-

1-3, 7, 18, 19, 22, 28, 34-37, 39
 40, 47, 49-54, 56, 60, 62-64, 67,
 69, 72-86, 89, 91-93, 95, 98, 100-102,
 105-107, 109, 111-122, 126 and any later.

REVIEWS OF LIBRARY BOOKS

Members will be aware that we now have a comprehensive Library covering both philatelic and non-philatelic literature. It would be most helpful to members to know the contents of recently acquired as well as long held books. Would any U.K. members care to undertake a review or two for publication in the QC?

John Davis - Librarian

Reviews of about 300 words would be most welcome for the QC.
 Ed.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (GENERAL A/C) 1992

INCOME FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1992

	£
Subscriptions	£ 1752
Subs paid in advance in 1991	173
Income from use of Photocopier	200
Bank Interest received	42.05
Contributions from members	27.50
Sundry receipts	20.90
Transfer from Auction A/c	<u>150</u>
	<u>2365.45</u>

EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1992

	£
Hire of rooms for meetings	182
Cost of QC (3 issues), printing, postage & envelopes.	771.61
Affiliation Fee, British Philatelic Fed.	50
Printing of 1993 Programme Cards	60
Stationery	30
Secretary's postages	44.11
Chairman's postages	38.63
Purchase of photocopier & equipment	<u>300</u>
	1476.35
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	<u>889.10</u>
	<u>2365.45</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1992

ASSETS

	£
Circle Library & Circle Records valued at	NIL
Photocopier	300 **
Cash at Bank, Current a/c	1150.59
Deposit a/c	<u>1063.01</u>
	<u>2513.60</u>

LIABILITIES

Subs for 1993 paid in advance	187.50
Cost of QC for Dec 1992 (estimated)	250
QC, Editor's expenses (estimated)	50
Accumulated Surplus	<u>2026.10</u>
	<u>2513.60</u>

** The photocopier will be depreciated annually as from 1993.

AN APPRECIATION OF THE WORK JOHN GRIMMER (ESC 164)

Editor of the QC 1977-1992

All members will know by now that the Editor of the QC is Michael Dahl (ESC 399) who commenced this onerous task earlier in the year when he succeeded John Grimmer. I must not let the matter pass without paying tribute on behalf of all of us to John for his hard work over the years.

John's first QC as Editor was the combined issue for September/December 1977 (Whole Nos. 103 & 104) which completed Volume IX. He was therefore in charge for almost 16 years and during this time the membership of the Circle has grown by 50% which in great part can be attributed to the regular dissemination of knowledge and means of communication afforded by the Quarterly Circular.

All Editors imprint some part of their personality on their work and I feel John's almost informal, friendly approach showed in his editorials and this gave encouragement to new contributors as well as retaining the loyalty of more experienced writers. During his Editorship the QC was entered into International Competition and won high awards. It goes without saying that he was meticulous in his attention to detail and devoted to the well being of the Circle.

Unfortunately, John has not been in the best of health over the past few years and reluctantly decided to give up this demanding job. We can only thank him again for all his work over a long period of time. As a small expression of our thanks the Circle has presented him with two framed watercolour essays of unaccepted Egypt stamp designs. With these go our very best wishes for the future and we hope he will enjoy many more years of Circle membership without the responsibilities of Editorship.

John Sears, Chairman

THE SURCHARGED PROVISIONALS OF 1878/9

Peter A.S. Smith (ESC 74)

Towards the end of 1878, when a contract had already been made with Thomas De La Rue & Co. for future supplies of stamps, a decision was reached to surcharge the substantial existing supply of the 2½pi. stamps with new values, 5 and 10 paras. The reason for the decision has not been explicitly recorded. However, the need for a 2½pi. denomination had virtually disappeared when the UPU letter rate was reduced from 1½pi. to 1 pi. (and thus the registered letter rate from 2½pi. to 2pi.). The stock of unneeded 2½pi. stamps could be made more useful by converting them to the denominations needed for newspapers (5pa.) and greeting cards (10pa.). The latter, especially, would be in heavy demand at the forthcoming New Year festival, and the new stamps from De La Rue would not be ready by then.

An essay was prepared showing the new denominations in French and Arabic, arranged to fit the oval of the vignette, with vertical lines to obliterate the old denomination (Fig. 1). It was applied to a few copies of the 2½pi. stamps.



Fig. 1

Examples are known in red and in black; both are rare, and I know of no multiples. This essay did not show up at all well on the dark stamps, and was rejected in favour of a far more prominent surcharge.

The Government Printing Works in Boulaq undertook the surcharging by lithography, but records of the details are not known. From the existing stamps, which include full sheets, a little of the procedure used can be deduced. The printing stones must have consisted of 200 subjects, enough for a full sheet. The subjects were accurately placed and aligned. The corner stamps of the 10pa. show small, L-shaped guide markings at the outer corner of the stamp. The same type of mark occurs at the middle of each side of the sheet (positions 91, 101, and 110, but not 100). They define each quarter-sheet of 50, if one makes allowance for the probability that some of them were lost when the paper transfers of a presumed intermediate stone¹ of 50 were trimmed before laying them down (indeed, some of the guide marks are incomplete, one leg apparently having been trimmed off). Thus guide marks appear on sheet positions 1, 5, 6, 10, 91, 101, 105, 106, 110, 191, and 200, but surprisingly, position 100 does not appear to have one. Position 200 of the 10pa. has not only a partial guide mark at its lower right corner, but also one at its upper right corner. This anomaly suggests the possibility that a substituted transfer was involved. The 5pa. normally has no guide marks anywhere (but see below).

The 200 subjects are quite uniform in appearance, and any small characteristics of subjects from a particular position on an intermediate stone are masked by the general coarseness of the printing. However, it is a reasonable assumption that single drawings (or engravings) for each of the two values were prepared, and that these were replicated by imprinting them in multiple onto lithographic transfer paper, which was

used to transfer a matrix of subjects to an original stone. It would have been very tedious to take 50 separate impressions for each value; a more practical procedure would have been to make original stones of, say, 5 (or 10) subjects, and then to transfer these ten (or five) times to build up an intermediate stone of 50.

There is a mysterious aspect to the corner guide marks. Although the 5pa. normally has no guide marks in any position, some stamps exist with guide marks in all four corners (Fig. 2); they are very scarce. Such stamps are not present in the full sheets that have survived, but most of them are used. Furthermore, stamps with four guide marks are found with either upright or inverted surcharges, and the latter appear to come from complete sheets with inverted surcharge. The examples that I have seen have the surcharge centered to the upper left, making parts of four guide marks visible at the lower right. In the sheets of the basic stamp, one stereo (No. 154) is inverted, and thus gives rise to a tete beche variety. A sheet with surcharge upright would thus contain one stamp with inverted surcharge, but with a frequency of 1 out of 200, it would be a rarity. Stamps with inverted surcharge and four guide marks are not rare enough to be consistent with a single inverted stereo as the sole source. Some 10pa. stamps exceptionally exist with parts of guide marks in two, three, or four corners, but some of the marks consist of only a line instead of an "L".

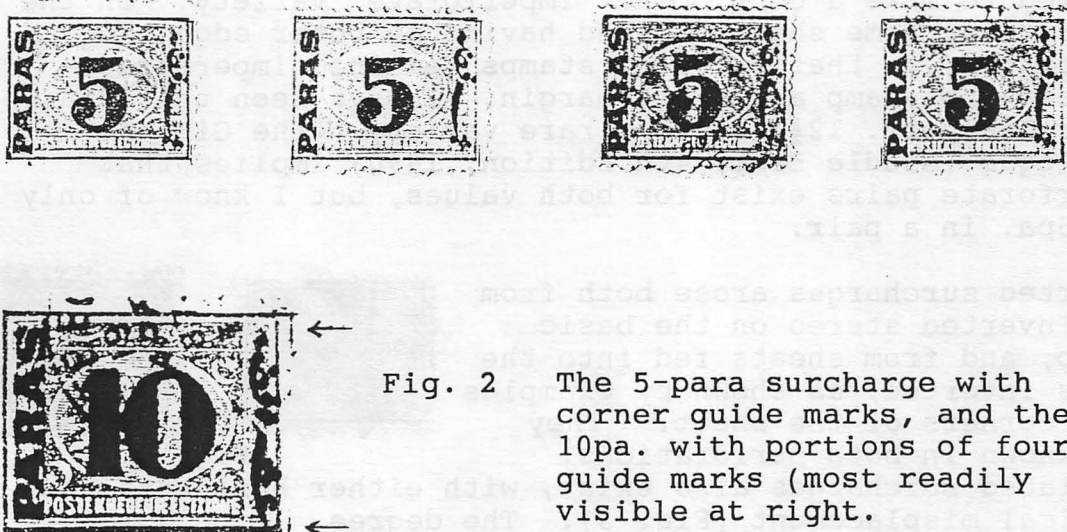


Fig. 2 The 5-para surcharge with corner guide marks, and the 10pa. with portions of four guide marks (most readily visible at right).

It has been speculated that the stamps with four corner guide marks come from a trial printing.¹ The ordinary 5pa. stamps, without guide marks, must have come from a subsequent printing, utilizing either the same stone after the guide marks had been erased, or a fresh stone. Similar remarks apply to the 10pa. The available evidence does not allow a decision to be made, but it is obvious that erasing four guide marks per stamp on a stone of 200 would have been discouragingly tedious. The guide marks were probably on the original drawing or engraving ("die"), to demark the position of the stamp design with respect to the surcharge (the essay also has such guide marks). The possibility that the stamps with four guide marks are forgeries is remote. The surcharges

seem to be an exact match with the stamps without guide marks, they are always on genuine $2\frac{1}{2}$ pi. stamps, and some of them have genuine cancellations. For the upright surcharges, there would be no incentive for forgery, for the value would not be increased.

The basic $2\frac{1}{2}$ pi. stamps came from a stock consisting of sheets perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ and sheets perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$; the latter gauge is much less common on the surcharged stamps. The watermark, a crescent and star, is properly upright (star above the crescent), but it is not scarce inverted. The combination of perforation and watermark thus leads to four distinct varieties of each stamp. The inverted stereo on the basic stamp led to *tete beche* pairs in each perforation. These are quite rare; on many sheets, the inverted stereo was removed because it had an inverted surcharge (presumably this was a case of misguided philatelic surgery applied to remainder sheets). The Zeheri catalogue (1972 Edition) gives an estimate that only five *tete beche* examples of the 5pa. are known² (only perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ is recorded); the frequency (or infrequency) of examples in major auctions is consistent with this, and suggests that perhaps 10 to 15 examples of the *tete beche* 10pa. may exist.

Both values are known imperforate as singles, but most examples are suspect. The sheets were perforated on a line perforator, and there was no precision to the spacing of the lines. Fat and narrow stamps, as well as short and tall ones, were produced, and a perforated stamp with wide margins can be trimmed to make a convincing "imperforate" variety. On the other hand, some sheets missed having an outer edge perforated, so that a row of stamps remained imperforate between the stamp and sheet margin. I have seen the 10pa., otherwise perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$; it is a rare variety. The Gibbons catalogue (Middle East, 4th Edition, 1990) implies that imperforate pairs exist for both values, but I know of only the 5pa. in a pair.

Inverted surcharges arose both from the inverted stereo on the basic stamp, and from sheets fed into the press inverted, as shown by examples from corners of the sheet.³ They are known in both perforations.



Fig. 3

Misplaced surcharges also exist, with either horizontal or vertical misplacement (Fig. 3). The degree of misplacement is not great on issued stamps (maximum about one-quarter of the width or height of the stamp); drastic misplacements (Fig. 4) are offered from time to time, but they are either printer's waste or forgeries (never with genuine cancellations).



Fig. 4 Severely misplaced surcharge presumably from printer's waste, with forged cancellation.

A double surcharge of the 10pa., in a block of 4 per. 12½, was in the Gougas collection (Robson Lowe auction, Basel, Feb. 28, 1973, Lot No. 957). I have seen only the catalogue illustration, in which one impression seems to be only faintly inked. If it is genuine, it might have resulted if one pass through the press was made without proper inking.

The sheets of the basic 2½pi. came from three states of the plate, differing because of replacement or defective stereotypes. They contained several prominently flawed stereotypes, some of which are illustrated in the Zeheri catalogue. Sheets from all three states of the plate were surcharged, and these plate flaws occur on surcharged stamps also.⁴ Four of them are particularly noticeable and "collectable":

1. A white gash on the right face of the pyramid - position 1 (Fig. 5);
2. A crumpled frame-line at right bottom - position 6, state 3 (Fig. 6);
3. A broken bottom outer frame-line - position 102, state 2 (Fig. 7);
4. A curved indentation in the right frame-line near the bottom - position 101, states 2 & 3) (Fig. 8). This flaw was apparently caused by the tool used in replacing the defective stereo 102).

In addition there is a similar curved indentation in the bottom frame-line, from state 3, position 92 and a "washed-out" area covering ANE of EGIZIANE (position 102, state 2).

Although all exist surcharged, they are not equally common, because some are the result of, or the reason for, substitution of a stereo. Further data on the flaws involving positions 92, 101 and 102 will be published shortly.⁵

The gashed pyramid, which occurs on all sheets, is much harder to find on the 10pa., for the heavy surcharge often totally obliterates the flaw. There are still other interesting plate flaws.

The only significant plate flaw of the surcharge itself occurs on position 103 of the 5pa.⁶ The ball of the 5 is partly hollow, resembling a question mark (Fig. 9).



Fig. 9

There is a range of shades, but most of the stamps are dull violet. Less common is a pale, dull violet, and still less common is a deep purple. The scarcest shade is a dark reddish violet; this shade does not seem to exist on the unsurcharged stamps, and may have come from a batch of ink used in the tail-end of the printing of the basic stamp (November, 1874). Examples are occasionally found in the grey colour of the 10pa. definitive. These are changelings.

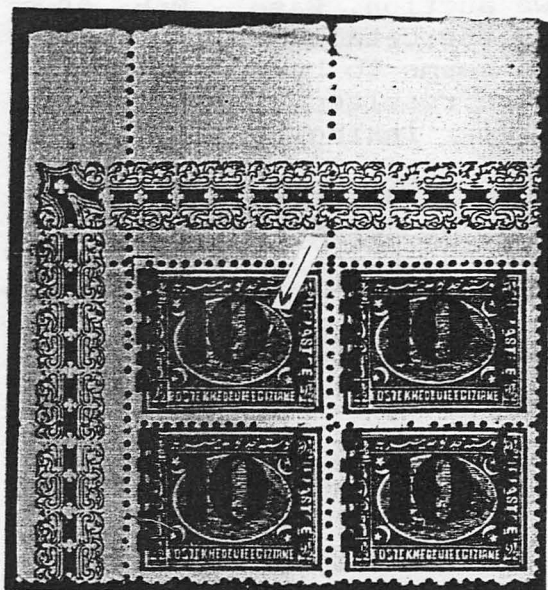


Fig. 5 The "gashed pyramid" flaw on position 1.



Fig. 6 The "crumpled corner" plate flaw, position 6 state 3. The value tablet is always weak.



Fig. 7 The broken bottom frame line on position 102 (state 1 of the plate), before substitution.

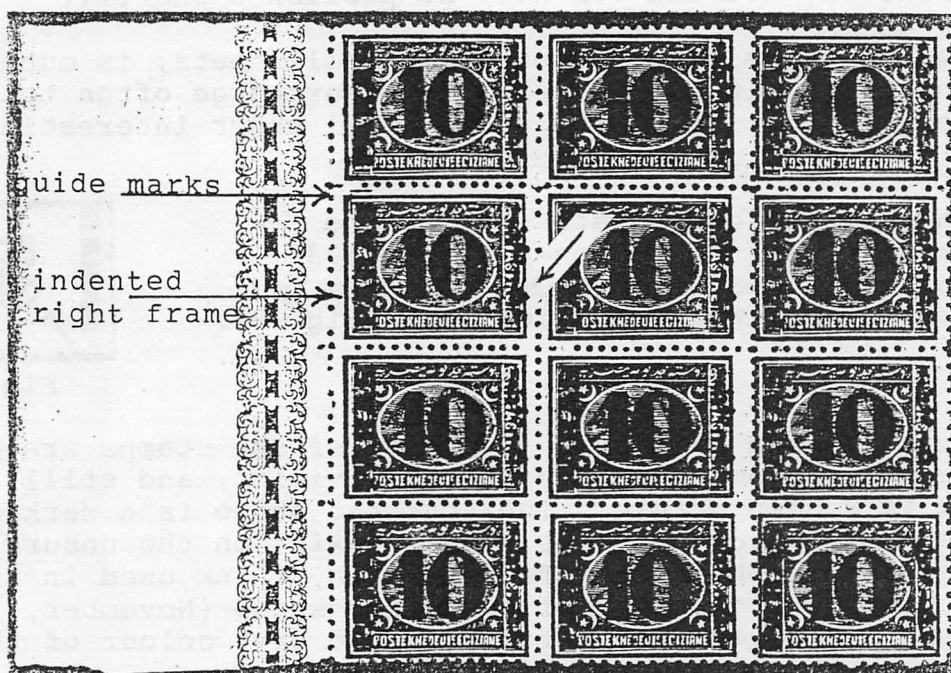


Fig. 8 Indented right frame line on position 101 (state 2) of plate, after substitution of 102). Note the guide marks between stamps 91 and 101.

Multiples of the provisionals are not really scarce in either perforation, and large blocks, even full sheets, can be found. The sheets typically have one stamp removed, the one with the inverted stereo. Singles or multiples with attached sheet margin (Figs. 5, 8), which bears a striking ornamental border, are desirable pieces, but are not especially difficult to find.

The date of issue is controversial. All catalogues give it as January 1st, 1879, but examples are known with genuine cancellations dated in late December 1878. Because of the heavy demand for mailing greeting cards at New Year's, it would have been logical to have supplies on hand at least a few days in advance. The scarcity of early dates could be a consequence of the custom to mail greeting cards exactly on New Year's Day (which was not a post-office holiday in Egypt).

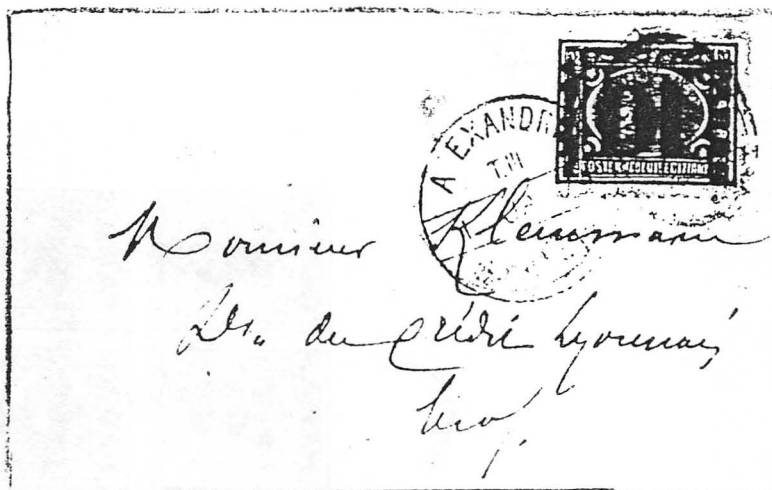


Fig. 10 The 10pa. with inverted surcharge, cancelled at Alexandria with Type VII c.d.s. on an unsealed greeting-card envelope on 1 JA, 1879.

Covers franked with either provisional are excessively rare. I know of only one cover franked with a single 10pa. (surcharge inverted, postmarked Jan. 1st) (Fig.10), one franked with a block of the 10pa. to pay the letter rate (used at the consular post office at Scio) (Fig. 11), and one bearing two 5pa. and one 10pa. provisional augmented with a 20pa. definitive to pay the lpi. letter rate to England, addressed to Stafford Smith, a pioneer stamp dealer. Even stamps on small fragments are rare (I have an imperforate 5pa. tied to a small piece of newspaper, and have seen another fragment). The rarity is a result of two factors: newspapers and greeting-card envelopes were seldom saved, and the stamps were on sale for little longer than three months. Along with all the other Third Issue stamps, they were withdrawn from sale on April 1st, 1879, when the De La Rue stamps were introduced, and stamps already purchased were officially acceptable for postal use only until the end of April (some were used later, by tolerance or oversight).

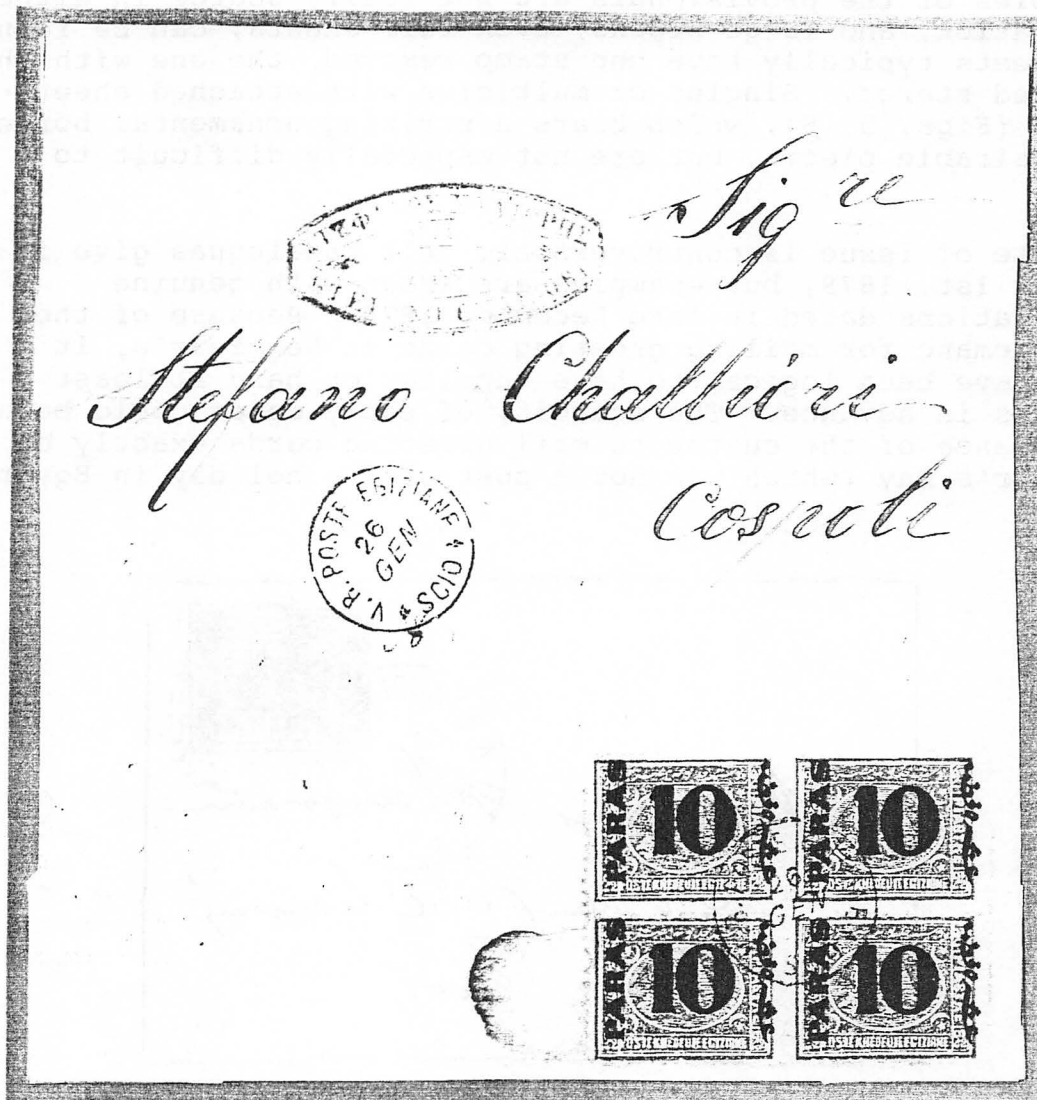


Fig. 11 A folded letter showing use of a block of 4 of the 10pa. to pay the letter rate from Scio (the Aegean island of Chios) to Constantinople. The c.d.s. on the block is identical to the information strike on the body of the cover.

The quantities printed or sold have not been disclosed, but the remainders sold in 1888 included¹ 56,070 5-para and 66,850 10-para stamps. These quantities apparently embraced both the provisionals and the definitives of both the 1872 and 1875 issues, and no breakdown was given.

The great majority of the provisionals were used in Alexandria (date-stamp Type V and VII) and Cairo (Type V), and postmarks of other offices are scarce. Presumably these stamps were distributed only to those offices that had occasion to requisition supplies of 5pa. and 10pa. stamps during the currency of the provisionals (the definitives were not withdrawn, and supplies of them may have been adequate at most offices). Nevertheless, some provisionals reached the consular offices, and I have seen cancellations of Metelino and Scio. The internal postmarks I have seen are: Fescne; Ismailia (blue); Mansura; Port Said; Siut; St. Schutz; Suez (blue); Suez Stazione (blue); Tanta; Teh el Barud, and Zagazig.

The 5pa. saw use on newspapers on which the stamps were applied before the paper was printed, and positioned so as to receive part of the date-line of the paper, printed on the stamp (usually, only the year, 1879, shows) (Fig.12). Such stamps also bear the circular date-stamp of Alexandria, and the newspaper imprint is thus a form of tie-print.



Fig.12

Some items of mail that escaped cancellation at the point of origin were subsequently cancelled with a retta; examples are rare. In other cases, especially mail posted on ships, the stamps were cancelled on arrival at a foreign port. I have seen an example cancelled at the Austrian post office in Constantinople.

A cancellation in Type I, long obsolete in 1879, is also found (with impossible dates). It may be a favour cancellation applied to remainders, using old cancellers. Other probable favour cancellations, all of Alexandria, are of Types not in use in 1879. They may be found in black, grey-black or purple.

The forgeries are of three kinds: forged inverted or misplaced surcharges; a forgery of the 5pa. surcharge on a genuine tete beche pair⁷ of the basic stamp, and forged surcharges on forged stamps (by Fournier) (Fig 13). All are well done. The tete beche forgery seems to take advantage of the difference between the catalogue value of the basic tete beche pair (£275 in the 1990 Gibbons Middle East catalogue) and 5pa. surcharge (£3000). This large difference did not exist in earlier years. This forgery is dangerous principally because one is likely to pay attention to the tete beche aspect, and not suspect the surcharge. The Fournier forgeries, which are upright, were made for the approval, packet, and space-filler trade.



Fig. 13 Fournier's forgeries of the surcharges and the genuine stamps.

The forgeries can be detected by the usual means, ie careful comparison of dimensions and shapes. The curve of the underside of the flag of the 5 is a particularly helpful aspect to examine (Figs 13 and 14). On the Fournier forgeries, it is nearly straight.



Fig. 14 A very dangerous forged surcharge, tied to piece with a nearly illegible datestamp of Alexandria.

Many of the forgeries have a forged cancellation as well, and this may be the quickest way to recognize the forgery. Fournier forgeries sometimes have fanciful grids as cancellations. A widespread forged cancellation exists for Cairo, in Type V ("POST EGIZIANE" with serifs); it has been used to forge covers.⁸ The cross-bar of the A of CAIRO is low, and the circular rim has a sharp break below the C. This forged cancellation has also been applied to other stamps, even including printer's waste of the Second Issue lpi. This forgery also occurs on apparently genuine printer's waste of the provisionals with the severely misplaced surcharge) (Fig. 4).

References

1. W. Byam, *The London Philatelist*, Jan., Feb., March., 1956, *L'Orient Philat.*, No. 102 (Ap/Jy), 1960, p.122.
2. See also J. Boulad d'Humieres, *L'Orient Philat.*, No. 121 (Jan/Jy) 1969, p.171.
3. J. Boulad, *L'Orient Philat.*, No. 57 (Jan) 1947, p.5.
4. P.A.S. Smith, *L'Orient Philat.*, No.117, (Apr 1966/Jan 1967) p.625.
5. P.A.S. Smith, *Quart. Circ.* In press.
6. E.L. Angeloglou, *L'Orient Philat.*, No. 28 (Apr) 1936, p.70 (see also *L'Orient Philat.*, No. 27 (Jan) 1936, p.21.
7. P.A.S. Smith, *Quart. Circ.*, X, No. 107, (Sep) 1978, p.58.
8. P.A.S. Smith, *Quart. Circ.*, VII, No. 75, (Dec) 1970, p.49.

THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF EGYPT AFTER 1879

I. "Arrival"

Lars Alund (ESC 105)

Many fields of Egyptian philately have been thoroughly studied. One has only to look at the volumes of *L'Orient Philatelique* and the *Quarterly Circular* from the Egypt Study Circle, to become almost overwhelmed by the amount of diligent work and research by various philatelists. However, these studies deal mainly with the stamps or with postal history. When it comes to postal markings comparatively little has been written except for the classical period and in various special fields such as Travelling and Proprietary Post Offices.

Covering the classical period there is the admirable work of Seymour Blomfield.¹ He listed every type of postal marking between 1866 and 1880. His observations have since been extended² but remain the standard reference. More recently Professor Peter Smith has published his comprehensive book on the TPOs,³ and John Sears has a complete list of the air mail cancellations in his book.⁴ Mike Murphy has published lists of governmental and related cancellations in the QC.⁵

There has been no general study of the postal markings after 1879. During the classical period there were comparatively few post offices and relatively few types of postmarks. A study of later marks will be a considerable task but one which I think should now be attempted. In launching a postmark study "post Blomfield" I find it natural to start with the letter "A" as in "arrival". My lists are based only on material in my own possession and I am fully aware of the fact that several post offices may exist with cancellations which I have not encountered and that their periods of use will certainly be extended in both directions by fellow collectors. My aim is only to provide a stimulus and to lay a foundation upon which we can all build.

When specifying the various types, I have used the ESC numbering system with additional more recent numbering from the Study Circle when necessary. However I think that it may require to be completely renumbered in due course.

References

1. Bloomfield, S. The Postal Markings of Egypt 1866 to 1880. *L'Orient Philat.*, No. 30 (Oct 1936), p.141 and *L'Orient Philat.*, No. 43 (Sept 1939), p.569
2. Feltus, P.R. Egyptian Postal Markings of 1865 - 1879. Study VI, part 1, Egypt Study Circle 1983.
3. Smith, P.A.S. The Travelling Post Offices of Egypt, Mobile Post Office Society, 1983.
4. Sears, J. The Airmails of Egypt. J. Sears 1990, Chap. 11, p.162.
5. Murphy, J.M. Proprietary Study - second echelon. *Quart.Circ.*, XII (No 3/4), 198. p.48.



Earliest date Latest date Note

Arr - 1

Alexandria	24 MR 89	20 AV 90	
Mansoura	20 JU 86		
Port-Said	15 JU 83	7 NO 85	
Suez	.. JL 86	3 JA 88	
Tanta	13 NO 81	15 FE 85	
Zagazig	.. JA 84	28 NO 85	

Also blue

Sub-type

Identical with Arr - 1 but without
"T" + figure after date - illustrated right.



Assiout	26 NO 85	10 FE 88	26 NO 85
---------	----------	----------	----------



Arr - 1.2

Caire	2 DE 82	18 FE 88	
-------	---------	----------	--

Numerals seen:
I, IV, V, VII and X



Arr - 1.3

Alexandrie	30 JA 85	.. JL 89	
------------	----------	----------	--

Numerals seen:
II and IV



Arr - 1.5

Alexandrie	4 IV 85	13 VI 85	
------------	---------	----------	--

Numerals after
"T" in ordinary
figures.
Seen 3 and 4



Arr - 2
Caire

Earliest date Latest date

24 X 85 9 IV 88

Note

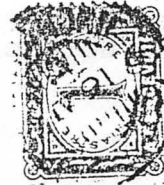
Contrary to the illustration all my copies have the numeral after "T" in ordinary (not Roman) figures.



Arr - 3
Alexandrie

22 X 85 22 II 86

Sub-type: Similar to Arr - 3 but the "A" is larger and the vertical bars are joined to the circle. There is no "T" after the date, only a numeral in ordinary figures⁶ - illustrated right. Seen numerals: 2, 3 and 6.



27 IV 91

Alexandrie 21 IV 90 27 IV 91



Arr - 3.5

A. with "T" + Roman numeral after date.

Alexandrie 12 VII 92 20 I 96

Caire 29 IV 91 1 XII 92

Seen numerals I and V
Seen numerals I and III

B. with "T" + ordinary numeral after date.

Alexandrie 1 I 92 28 V 95

Caire 1 I 91 4 II 92

Seen 2,4 and 5
Seen 2,3 and 4

C. No "T", Roman numeral only.

Alexandrie 24 VIII 01

Caire 22 III 93 25 V 93

Seen IV
Seen XI

D. No "T", ordinary numeral only.

Caire .. XI 91 19 II 92

Seen 3,6,7 and 9

Sub-type: Similar to Arr -3.5 but with six instead of five vertical bars below the date bridge. The diameter is smaller, the inner circle measures 13 mm instead of 15 mm. - illustrated below right.

A. with "T" + Roman numeral
Caire 12 I 94

B. No "T", Roman numeral only.
Caire 23 I 97

.. XII 97



..XII 97 VI



Arr - 3.6
I have no copies



Arr - 4. Caire only.

A. No "T", ordinary numeral only
1 VIII 88

B. With "T" + ordinary numeral
18 XI 88

C. No "T", Roman numeral only
.0 VII 89

13 IV 89

9 XII 89

Seen: 2 and 4

Seen: 5 and 9

Seen: X



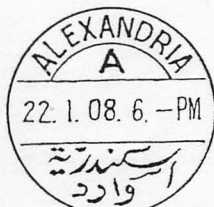
Arr - 4.5
Caire

26 V 97



Arr - 5 Alexandria

A. No "T", Roman numeral only:	8 II 00	.. III 02	Seen I,II,III
B. With "T", Roman numeral:	6 VI 96	3 VI 97	Seen I, III



Arr - 6

A. No brackets around (وارد)	Alexandria 1 IX 07		
	Cairo 19 VII 06	7 V 13	
B. With brackets around (وارد)	Cairo . III 14	24 X 14	



Arr - 6.5
Alexandria

17 JY 11 .. JU 12



Arr - 7

A. Month in figures - illustration a. below.	Alexandria .. I 11	24 III 24	Seen letters A,B,I,V
	Cairo 20 V 09	.. III 13	

Sub-type: Similar to Arr - 7
but with larger Arabic letters -
illustration b. right.

Cairo .. II 20
.. VII 20



2 VIII 10
a.



.. VII 20
b.

Arr - 7 (cont)

B. Month in letters

Alexandria

21 MA 24

Cairo

.. SE 13

10 DE 20

Arr - 7.1

No copies seen

Arr - 8

A. With brackets around (وارد)

Alexandria

.. JU 29

1 OC 34

Cairo

9 AU 24

30 JL 31

B. No brackets:

Alexandria

5 JL 40

4 MR 41

Cairo

.. MR 48

Tanta

14 NO 39

Blue

C. With brackets around bottom "A":

Mallawi

.. .. 40

8 MR 44

Note: I suppose that the following marks are also arrivals.
 There is an "A" below the name of the post office
 but no Arabic equivalent or "arrival" in the upper segment.

Port Said

7 MR 28

Suhag

11 AU 32

Sub-type: With "A-2" instead of single "A" below the name of the
 post office.

Cairo

2 DE 47

Blue



Arr - 18 in the new ESC list. Note: This illustration is drawn on a slightly reduced scale.

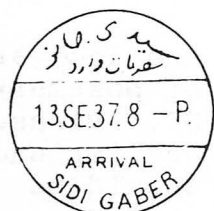
A. With brackets around Arabic "arrival".
 Alexandria .. .E 33 17 JA 48
 Cairo 17 JA 48

B. No brackets:
 Cairo .. AU 37 11 JA 39



Arr 9.1
 Cairo 19 NO 30 22 DE 31

All my copies have the letter "D" at bottom.



Arr - 9.55
 Alexandria 52
 Sidi Gaber 14 MA 39 31 DE 37



Arr 9.6
 I have none.



Arr 10.5
Alexandria

29 OC 36

Unrecorded type:

Similar to Arr - 18 but with larger letters and with A.4 above the name of the post office.

Alexandria

Date indistinct



(To be continued)

Many members will surely have material to go through and look at afresh in the light of this study. Unrecorded types of postmark will merit early illustration and publication in the QC. Please write to the editor as soon as possible. Details of earlier and later dates of use of marks described in the article should be forwarded to the author. Ed.

VARIETIES ON MODERN ISSUES
C.E.H. Defriez (ESC 172)

ESC member Eckhardt Redecke (ESC 357), has written about varying colour shades in some recent new issues. The stamps concerned were examined by some of the members at the meeting of the Circle in January 1993.

The details are as follows:-



SG 1688



SG 1689



SG 1715

- SG 1688 - 5pi. 20th Cairo International Book Fair
The emblem in the top left corner ranges in colour from brown, reddish-brown to green. The general background ranges from yellow to greenish and bluish yellow.
- SG 1689 - 5pi. 25th Anniversary of Martrans Shipping Line
The colour of the sky and sea vary in shades of blue.
- SG 1715 - 5pi. Post Day 1989.
The statue ranges from light buff to dark in colour and the background ranges from light to dark blue in colour.
- - - - -

The Circle's reference collection of new issues (block of four, a single and an F.D.C. of each stamp), does not have these differences on the above stamps. However, going back as far as 1986 I have found other issues where there are variations in colour :-



SG 1624



SG 1649

- SG 1624 - 5pi. 25th Anniversary Central Bank.
Shades of light or dark blue.
- SG 1649 - 5pi. Post Day 1987.
Pyramid brown or reddish-brown.



SG 1674



SG 1682

SG 1674 - 5pi. Inauguration of Cairo Underground Railway.
Light orange or deep orange.

SG 1682 - 5pi. Centenary of Birth of Selim Hassan.
Tarbush red, suit brown or tarbush carmine, suit red.



SG 1693



SG 1720

SG 1693 - 15pi. 25th Anniversary of African Postal Union.
Light blue or dark blue.

SG 1720 - 5pi. Inauguration of Second Stage of Cairo Underground Railway.
Light blue or dark blue.



SG 1765/6/7 (se-tenant) - 10pi 17th Anniversary of the Suez Crossing.
Pink or bright red.



SG 1803

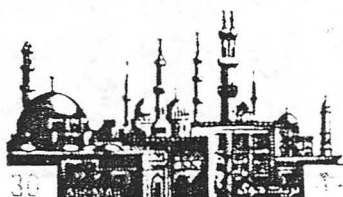


SG (MS) 1805

SG 1803 - 10pi. Artists (M. Nagi).
Portrait light brown or dark brown.

SG (MS) 1805 - 50pi. Giza Zoo.
Colours light or dark.

I have several varieties in my own collection including the following:-



SG 1170 - 30m. (Air) Al-Azhar Mosque and St. George's Church,
Cairo.
Dark brown or light brown.



SG 1338



SG 1368

SG 1338 - 20m. Post Day 1978. Major error of colour - blue
background (normal is green).

SG 1368 - 140m. U.N. Day. Major error of colour - blue
background (normal is green).

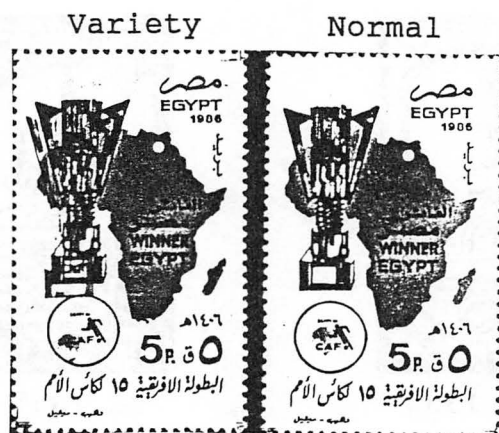


- SG 1525 - 3pi. 75th Anniversary of Cairo University.
 a) variety perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$.
 b) normal perf. $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ but with missing perf. on right side.
 c) normal perf. $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ but colour variety with darker blue statues and background.

Perhaps damage to the perforating pins (b) was the reason for the change to another perforating machine (a).



- SG 1628 - 15pi.+ 5pi. Relief of Drought Victims.
 Lemon colour misplaced 1.5 mm. to right (note shift of colour guide line in margin).



- SG 1633 - 5pi. Victory in African Nations Football Cup Championship.
 Magenta colour of Cup and map of Africa (circled) misplaced 1.3 mm. to left and 1.8 mm. down.

Variety

Normal



SG 1641 - 5pi. Engineers Day. 40th Anniversary of Engineers' Syndicate.
 White outline missing on right of pyramid due to misplacement of central emerald colour 1.0 mm. to right and slightly upward.

Variety

Normal



SG 1707 - 5pi. Award of Nobel Prize for Literature to Naguib Mahfouz.
 Orange brown colour shows upward misplacement of 1.0 mm. to produce doubling of circular portrait at upper and lower margins, apparent drop of medal relative to book beneath and raised lower frame margin.



SG 1745 - 10pi. Cairo International Congress Association.
 The cloud formation differs in detail on all the stamps.

LETTERS

Newsletter from New Zealand

Sir, The "New Zealand Chapter" of the Egypt Study Circle is comprised at present of three members - Sue McIntosh (Christchurch), Tony Chisholm (Wellington) and Peter Goodwin (Orewa), which is just north of Auckland. Being so far away from our UK base and isolated from each other by 300 odd miles, we have to write or telephone to keep in contact and sustain our focus on matters Egyptian.

In March of 1992 we all met at Tony's holiday home on the Coromandel Peninsular for a four day seminar in the company of two other collectors not of the Egyptian persuasion. The topic was to assist Tony in his cataloguing of Egyptian Postcards - between us there are enough to fill one hundred A4 sheets with 38 to the sheet, and it is hoped to place a final updated list in the Circle Library as a reference very shortly.

We hope to make this a bi-annual event, and whatever topic is chosen for attention, our findings will go to the QC for general information. Should any "overseas" member wish to attend, they will be more than welcome.

P.F. Goodwin (ESC 297)
9a Melanie Place
Orewa
Hibiscus Coast
New Zealand

What a pleasure it is to receive such information from afar. I do hope other groups will write with news of their local activities. Ed.

Encounters with Forgeries: 1886 Postage Dues Imperforate

Sir, An October mail auction in the United States offered two lots, one consisting of the 1886 10pa. and 20pa. postage dues in imperforate pairs, and the other, the 1pi. and 2pi. in the same state. The illustration in the catalogue was not very clear, but looked like genuine stamps. I bid on both lots and got them. All four pairs turned out to be forgeries with the following characteristics. All were unwatermarked, on thin, crisp, gummed paper. The design was too tall by about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. (19 mm. vs. 18.5 for the genuine). The lettering is too thin (both the Roman and the Arabic). The thick frame lines are too thin, making the white space between them and the thin frame-lines too wide. Most of these differences are easily apparent when one compares the forgeries with a genuine stamp.

P.A.S. Smith (ESC 74)
811 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Ann Arbor
Michigan 48103, USA